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THE MADERA COUNTY HISTORIAN

MADERA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

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THE ELLISES OF NORTH FORK

The Madera County Historian is indebted to the late Judge Marcia Putney for much of the material contained in this narrative. She left copies of the original manuscripts of Charles, Walter and William Ellis, Sr. written in 1948. All that was needed was a very pleasant afternoon's visit in the home of Mr. & Mrs. William A. Ellis in order to bring our story up to date.

We thought of combining the three manuscripts into one story, but in doing so, we would lose much of the individuality of the writers, so we decided to present each story as written. Since Charles was the oldest of the family, we will start with his story. As you read, bear in mind Charles A. Ellis wrote this in August of 1948.

CHARLES A. ELLIS

I was born in Coulterville, Mariposa County, June 7, 1871, and lived there until April, 1893. By that time the mines had worked out and there was nothing doing, so my folks decided to move.

Mrs. Pray and her son, David, had come to this place in 1887, locating at what is now Power House 1, but when I arrived here Mrs. Pray was living in the house at North Fork where Frank Lewis now lives. Also, Tom Ramsey had moved here from Snelling in the fall in 1897. Through this source my folks heard of North Fork and my father came down here in September, 1890, to look the situation over, came back, and my folks moved here in October, 1890, settling on the place my brother Walter now lives. I came here in the spring of 1892 to visit them, but went back in about three weeks.

North Fork then consisted of the house now known as Nob Hill; John Bartram and family lived there. Albert Brown & family lived in a house that stood by the live oak back of what is now he Slagle General Store (Carver's Market to-Day). Emeline Brown lived in a house that was located on what is now Les Smith's place; a family by the name of Beeson lived in a little house across the road from what is now Best's Store. There was a harness shop on the turn of the road to South Fork conducted by J.W. Peckinpah. Back of it was a blacksmith shop conducted by the Company. A box factory, which was located at the foot of Nob Hill on the west side, run by water power, worked about 20 men. On the mountain were two sawmills. The smaller one, conducted by C.M. Peckinpah, who was the pioneer, and a large one about a mile south, by the North Fork Lumber Co. They were putting in a flume to convey the lumber to South Fork, but when they got to Cascadel, Mr. J.E. Chapin who then owned the property stopped them, as he had a prior right to the water. (Mr. J.E. Chapin was first supervisor from District 5)

The next year, 1893, I was employed by the Madera Flume and Trading Company at what is now known as Soquel. At that time the depression had set in. The Box Factory at North Fork had been run that year by a man by the name of Morrow. He had also failed, the men got only part of their wages, and everyone was leaving.

There was Fred Frost who had a store in the turn of the road near what is now Radman's. He talked me into buying the wreck, which I did November 2, 1893, in a raging windstorm. I put in some more goods. The people commenced coming in when they saw they could get provisions, and I got along. About all the money was gold dust brought in by the Indians.

In 1895, the San Joaquin Electric Company commenced work about a mile below North Fork, building a ditch. In 1890, they put in the first dam at Crane Valley, and in 1910 the present dam, which put lots of money in circulation for a year.

There had been other stores before me. Fred Visher and B. T. Norris had a store at what is now the Mission. After that Fred Bowman owned it.

The Mission was founded about 1900. Old man Cheepo, an Indian, was at the store one day and I asked him what they were going to do at the Mission. He replied, "Take all the children up there and make them gentle."

We have had tragedy here also. In 1891, James Lawson mistook his six-year-old daughter for a skunk and shot her. In 1895, we had the shooting of Doc Barker by Vic Adams, and the lynching of Adams by a mob at Fine Gold. On the 29th of February, 1908, the murder of James Bethel, a pioneer. At the trial, one of the lawyers asked Mike McDon-

ald, a witness, if he knew what the 4th of July was. Mike said he did. The lawyer asked him what, and McDonald replied, "Go over to Charlie Ellis store and have big time."

When I came here the farmers, mostly cattlemen, were Jerry Costello, Joe Goode, south of North Fork; Tom Brown and Captain Logan, east; and Jess Ross and Mrs. Geddes at the crossing of Whiskey Creek; Winkleman & John Herron, Sharpton & Blanchard at Crane Valley. I have been told John Herron brought some of the first cattle to this county from Texas.

In the spring of 1893 while waiting for camp to open, the neighbors got together and built the Cleveland District Schoolhou e just back of where W.A. Ellis now lives. Miss Wren was the first teacher.

In 1897, Mr. Franklin took over the store from Frank Driver (Best later owned it) and conducted it until his death about New Year's of 1922. In the spring of 1902 he and Miss Margaret Moutry, who had been teaching the Cleveland School, were married and he built the hall which is now used as post office and Best's Store. In the same year, I purchased the land from there north and west of the township line and built a store where the road goes into the Forest Service Headquarters, and conducted it until the fall of 1911. Shortly after that I bought the Nob Hill property, then the field that is now a pear orchard, or was. Then I purchased the property which is now owned by the Weatherlys. (This has been subdivided and sold.) So you will see Mr. Franklin and I nearly owned the city, but we never quarreled.

After 1911, I went into the cattle business on a small scale, buying out T.J. Dunlop and others. In 1945, illness forced me into retirement.

(Charles passed away in October of 1949. He was buried in Mountain View Cemetery in Fresno. You will hear more about him in the other stories.)

WALTER G. ELLIS ———August, 1948

I was born February 22, 1882 (Washington's birthday), on Greeley Hill, Mariposa County, about six miles north of Coulterville and about four miles from Tuolumne County. I have a twin sister, Dora, who lives in Fresno. I had two other sisters and four brothers, three of whom live at North Fork. One sister, Louise, died in Fresno in 1909, and my brother, John, died in 1924. The oldest one, a sister, I don't remember, as she died in infancy before I was born.

My father was from New York and knew General McClellan who organized the Army of the Potomac. He also knew Morrissey, a prize fighter, who was champion of the world then. When I went to school there was a piece in my reader about Myron Holly. I don't remember much of it, but my father said he went to his funeral.

I heard my father speak of being road master and tax collector in Mariposa County. There were a good many Chinamen there then, and some were mean and did not want to pay the poll tax. My father had a two-edged dagger that he had taken away from one of the Chinamen.

My father said he wanted to join the Union Army when the war started, but he broke his leg and was unable to go. My mother was German and was born in Alsace-Loraine, which belonged to France then. My people came to North Fork on October 18, 1890. It was still Fresno County then, and the road into North Fork had been built just that fall.

There was a school, named San Joaquin, about a mile from the road where South Fork is now, and I went there in 1891 and 1892. The Cleveland School started on what later became our property in 1893, and I attended that until 1899. The last teacher I had was A.W. Frederich, who died in Oregon in 1943. Miss Rachel Ward, now Mrs. Cummings of Madera, taught the South Fork (or San Joaquin) School. I have not seen her for about 55 years. (She is no longer living.)

I used to run around barefoot and nearly always had a sore foot from stepping on a broken bottle or a rock, and once I stepped on a garden rake and had a hard time pulling it from my foot, it was so deeply imbedded.

I picked up empty bottles and sold them to a peddler for 15 c per dozen. If I found what I called a flask I got 5 c for it.

There were lots of quail here and my brother, John, took a barrel of a shotgun we had and made a stock of sugar pine and wired it on with hay wire. He would stand on the front porch and sometimes get six quail with one shot. The gun was a muzzle loader and used a cap, and we would get the peddler to get us a box of caps for 5 c, and 10 c worth of shot in exchange for the bottles we gathered, and the next time we had more bottles we would get a few oranges. (Times have changed.)

C.M. Peckinpah, father of David Peckinpah, Fresno lawyer, Mortimer, Fresno real estate agent, and Lincoln of Plumas County, came here from Sonoma County in 1895 and put up a mill on what is now Peckinpah Mountain. Bartram & Brown had a mill close to it, and had a lumber yard and small box factory and planing mill in North Fork. They had a donkey engine, and later it was moved to Pine Ridge. It was the first one in use there.

The panic of '93 came on and times were hard. Men worked for ten and twenty dollars per month if they could get work, and $30 was big money. The first hook tender with the donkey engine on Pine Ridge got $50 per month.

In 1895 the San Joaquin Electric Company started work here and built a reservoir above Power House 1, and in the same year, built the first power house. While this work was being done, ten Chinamen went out in a boat on the river near the power house, the boat overturned, and all ten were drowned. My father took a New York paper, and read about it in that.

We used to cut brush and build brush fences. There were no wire fences then that I know of; my brother John and I built the first wire fence in 1896 when I was 14 years old.

There were about 80 voters in Brown's Precinct in North Fork when I came here, and it was the biggest precinct in the county outside of Madera.

I used to kill rattlesnakes and skin them, selling the skins to

Louise Ellis McHugh Mrs. Dora Ellis Dora Ellis Hill
1903

Walter Ward at Fine Gold for 35 c each. My brother pulled brush with horses and cleared land. One man here had hogs, and I guess they kept alive by getting in somebody's grain or hayfield and getting what they could to eat. Most of them looked like greyhounds and were about as fast on foot. They would run and outdistance any ordinary dog.

The mail came from Fresno every other day, if the road was not washed out or the water too high, which was apt to be the case, either on Fine Gold Creek, or some othe place, and then the stage could not make it. Then they would load the mail bag onto a horse and swim the horse across, though sometimes it was too high even for this. Once the stage was lost. On the stage was a passenger who had a shotgun; the stage, passenger, gun and all were washed down on some rocks on the lower side of the creek and upset, and all went into the water. The gun was lost.

I saw the first train in Fresno in 1896 when I was 14 years old, but did not have my first train ride until I was 20.

In 1896 at a restaurant in Fresno we got pork chops, bread and butter, coffee and a saucer of fruit for 15 c. Degen's corner on "I" Street (Broadway now) and Mariposa, gave a piece of ham as big as a saucer and about half an inch thick, with a stack of hot cakes, and potatoes and coffee for 25 c, and there was a stack of bread about 18 inches high on the table. A person seldom paid over 25 c for a room. My brother had a store in North Fork and had good work shoes for $1.50 per pair, and the best were $2.50--- better than any made now. A person could get 40 lbs. of beans for $1.00, and Golden Monarch flour, a cheaper grade, was only about 65 c for a 49 lb. sack.

On Wednesday, September 26, 1899, at age 17, I started to work for Peckinpah for a dollar per day and board for twelve hours work, off-bearing from the big saws, the hardest job in a mill or woods. I had never seen a circular saw turn before. The carriage came forward with a sugar pine log on it five feet in diameter, and the sawdust came in my face---I felt like running.

The next year, on August 18, 1900, Saturday, I started to work in the woods at Sugar Pine. Bert Hurt, now of North Fork, (no longer living) was head man, known then as head swamper, or hook-tender now. The logging company used a line or cable of 3/4 inch thickness. This was the biggest they used, and was smaller than the smallest used in the state of Washington 20 years ago. Stanley Murray, now Superior Court Judge, was a spool-tender there then (passed away). The mill was being built and one set of circulars was still running. Tom Chapman was sawyer and sawed 107,-000 feet one day. That was the record to that date, and I guess it was never beaten. Ed Saunders, later mayor of Madera, was edgeman in the mill. Rick Nelson, now deceased, was oiler, and Tom Duncan, once of Madera, was electri – cian when the lights were put in. S. J. Perkins was the blacksmith. (I have been told he planted the first olive orchard in Madera County.) Jim Regan of Fresno Flats---now Oakhurst---was brakeman on the logging train. I have heard not long ago that he is still alive and living in Canada. (Deceased) He is now over 80. They had a small wood-burning locomotive and Ray Curran of Madera was fireman, and Joe O'Donnell, now deceased, engineer. Stoddart Bros. of Mariposa County had the contract for falling the timber and cutting the logs. There were a lot of Chinamen cross-cutting, and they would stop work every afternoon and build a fire in the woods, make tea and have something to eat.

NOTE TO READER: The following names are mentioned in the paragraph above and may mean more if further identified.

Bert Hurt	Deceased. Wrote a book on lumbering and logging.
Stanley Murray	Passed away in 1963. Several children are living in Madera.
Ed Saunders	Deceased. Brother of Mayme Saunders Moses, and Mrs. Frank Floto, all deceased.
S. J. Perkins	His olive orchare now a part of Oberti orchard.
Jim Regan	Deceased

Ray Curran	Deceased---brother of Mrs. Letitia Lesan.
W.A. "Doc" O'-Donnell	Deceased---father of Mrs. Al Barsotti and Mrs. Glenn Wright.

The next year Bill Burke, now of Madera, (deceased) and his brother, John, of Fresno, (now dead), cut logs by con tract, and I felled timber for them four seasons. I felled around Groves Meadow and along the road to Yosemite Valley below Miami Mill, and helped to build a camp at Koontz Meadow. In 1908, I made shakes on Peckinpah Mountain, and the next year cut logs on contract at Pierce's Mill there. In September of 1910, I went to Tuolumne County and spent 18 months in the camp of West Side Lumber Company. That winter there was 14 feet of snow at an elevation of 5400 feet, and I understand there was 17 feet at Pierce's Mill. I spent the winter of 1911 in Fresno, and the summer of 1912 at El Portal in Mariposa County for Yosemite Lumber Company. That winter I worked in the lumber yard at Tuolumne, and spent the summer of 1913 in El Dorado County at Pine Grande, and the following winter in Sonoma County near Mendocino making ties.

In 1914, I went to the state of Washington and landed at Aberdeen, Gray's Harbor, on Sunday, May 31. I worked in the woods in that state about 15 years, and about that long in California. In 1914 a man at Aberdeen told me he had been on Gray's Harbor 32 years (my age at the time), and they were getting living wages for the first time that summer. The donkeys were doing five times as much as they used to, and when I left there, they were doing five times as much as when I came, and that with poorer timber and ground, and only about half as many men. When I first went to Gray's Harbor they cut the big trees in logs 24 feet long. They left lots of hemlock, and what was cut was cut about eight feet from the ground, and all was used in the paper mill. The biggest log I ever saw scaled about 13,000, and the donkey pulled it with a straight line, without a block.

A man on the boat going to the harbor told me that the men up there were more roughnecks, and I found it so. I have worked in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and Cascades, in the Redwoods and Gray's Harbor, with the Olympic Peninsula and Puget Sound, and can say that the ones from the Sierras can log with the best of them.

The following incident is included because it illustrates the hard life of the early lumbermen.

"While still a young man he suffered a serious injury when a tree fell on him, crushing the side of his head and shoulder. His fellow workers left him for dead and went back to camp. Walt regained consciousness sufficiently to drag himself into camp and ---hard-drinking, superstitious lot that they were--- the lumberjacks scattered at the sight of the bloody 'ghost.' Walt subsequently lay unconscious for weeks in his brother's home as a result of this injury."

The following story is a combination of direct quotes from Mr. William A. Ellis, from the Fresno Bee of March 7, 1952 and from an interview with Mr. Ellis on August 27, 1968.

The Ellis family first came into Madera County in 1852 when Arthur Gordon Ellis became associated with Steve Reed at the Board Ranch near Soquel. This was prior to the big lumbering operations, and Reed pushed back into the Sugar Pine to make weatherboards, or clapboards, for building. These were boards three feet long, six inches wide, and a quarter of an inch thick. From these the ranch got its name.

Arthur Gordon Ellis, the father came to California from Rochester, New York, in 1852. In 1853, Ellis went into Mariposa County where he remained for a number of years. From there, the family gravitated toward the settlement of North Fork, where they acquired extensive land holdings, and where the four sons had their homes.

Mr. Ellis met his wife in Coulterville, Mariposa County. She was Dora Wagner, born in Rheims, Alsace-Loraine; she came to the United States when eight years old and came to Coulterville in 1864, making the long journey around the Horn. Her two brothers had come earlier.

Eight children were born to this family, a baby girl, the first child dying in infancy; Charles G. in 1874; William A. in 1874; Louise and John; twins Walter and Dora born in 82; and Robert in 1890.

We have the stories of Charles and Walter as they wrote them. Today William A., Sr. and Walter are all that are still living. William still resides on the same place he came to in 1905, Walter, now 86, is in a rest home in Oakhurst, Calif.

Charles, Walter and John were interested in the cattle business or logging.

Robert A., youngest of this family of five sons and three daughters, came from Coulterville in Mariposa County when his parents moved here. Unlike the others, he did not engage in logging operations, except for making shakes, but worked instead for various ranchers. He was a "cowboy, teamster, and poison oak rancher." At fifteen Bob went into the cattle business, and stayed with it. "Never," as he said, "having made enough money to get out of it."

November 2, 1911, was election day, and on that day Bob became 21 years old, cast his first vote, and served on the election board. There was some question as to the legality of his registering before he was 21, and the matter had to be referred to the district attorney for an opinion. In this year of 1948, election day again falls on November 2, and on Bob's birthday, for the second time in his life.

Following the death of J.B. McDonald in 1934, Bob was appointed Justice of the Peace of the Fifth Township, and held this office from then through 1942.

W. A. Ellis home, built in 1908

Arthur Gordon Ellis died in 1906 and at his request was buried on the old Ellis ranch (close to the road that is a busy highway today) and bordering on the William A. Ellis home place. Mrs. Ellis died in 1910 and was buried in Fresno.

We now come to the story of William A. Ellis or "Bill" as he is better known. We are told that he entered North Fork, riding a little yellow mule on November 11, 1890, which was an election day that he found quite lively.

Ellis started out as a teamster, hauling lumber for the Peckinpah and the C.S. Pierce Lumber Companies from the mills above North Fork to Fresno. He became noted for his matched team of 10 gray horses, which was considered the biggest and finest team on the road. The teamsters were hampered in the early days by snowstorms and poor roads, with many men and teams injured or killed in the hauling operation. The road from Peckinpah Ridge was especially dangerous because it then was almost a sheer drop.

In 1901, Ellis and Ernest Klette, the late superior court judge of Fresno County, then living at Bellview, ran against each other for the post of supervisor, but Klette had other interests and dropped out of the race. Ellis was elected and served six succeeding terms from 1902 to 1926. He also served as foreman of the grand jury a number of times.

Mr. Ellis was concerned, from the time he entered Madera County, about road conditions, so when he became supervisor he worked earnestly to improve these conditions. He was only 28 years old, the second youngest supervisor in the state. He served 24 years. On the board with him when he began were: Strudwick Sledge, Frank Brown, David Fowler and George Teaford. Madera, the town, was not incorporated yet and was under the jurisdiction of the Board. Mr. Ellis states, "At that time Madera had six eating places and 29 saloons."

William Ellis proved his desire to do right, to stand firmly on what he believed to be just and fair for the people of Madera County. Several instances illustrate his perserverance and tenacity.

From the Fresno Bee, March 7, 1952---

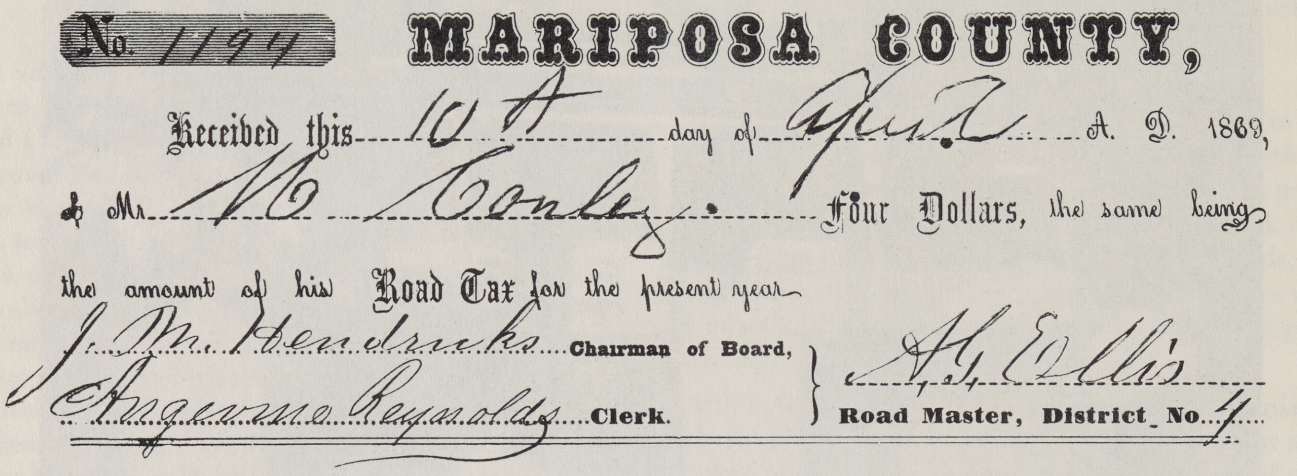
If W. A. Ellis of North Fork had not been willing as a supervisor to act against a powerful group of objectors, the county park in Madera probably would not exist today.

"They almost hanged me for my attitude toward it," he said today as he recalled casting the deciding vote to place the park where it is.

"When the site was purchased," he reminisced, "it consisted of little more than a block of old hotels, livery stables, saloons, laundries, and blacksmith shops. The purchase price to the county was to be nearly $18,000 for the site alone," Ellis said. "It was a very controversial subject, with many big taxpayers for it, and some against it. Two supervisors were dead set against it, with Ellis one of the three in favor of it. "The first park supervisor didn't make good," said Ellis, "so he was discharged. W.K. Heiskell, who was hired to replace him, took hold and raised the park to what it is today."

The City of Madera was incorporated in 1907. The first mayor was J.G. Roberts, and supervisors at that time were Sledge, Brown, Ellis, R.L. Wood, and Herman Crow.

Ellis said when the first public library was organized in 1910 he had trouble convincing the other members of the board of supervisors they should appropriate $1,000 for it. At first the library was housed in rented buildings about town, but later the county purchased the present site in Madera across from the courthouse park and built the building.



No. 1197 **MARIPOSA COUNTY,**

Received this 10th day of June A. D. 1869,

of Mr. M. Conley Four Dollars, the same being

the amount of his Road Tax for the present year

J. M. Hendricks Chairman of Board,

Augustus Reynolds Clerk.

A. G. Ellis

Road Master, District No. 4

Road tax receipt. Made out by A.G. Ellis, father of William A. Ellis, Sr. M. Conley was the father of W. M. Conley, first Superior Court Judge of Madera County.

One of the later projects of Ellis' career as a supervisor was the Ahwahnee Sanitarium.

"In the early days of Madera County," he said, "there were no facilities to care for tubercular patients, and few doctors who knew how to treat them. The small cottage at the present Madera County Hospital was used as a tuberculosis cottage or ward. In 1914 there developed a great demand for the care of tubercular patients, to get them off the streets and cared for properly."

Ellis was appointed to represent Madera County, as chairman of the Madera Board of Supervisors, to make a study with Tom Scranditdt, chairman of the Merced Board of Supervisors, Vaughn Whitmore, chairman of the Stanislaus Board of Supervisors, and Mrs. Tate Thompson, a government employe in charge of all tubercular soldiers in California. The group were told it was necessary for Mrs. Thompson to approve the site in order to obtain federal and state funds for the building, and the site was to be located at an elevation of 1,800 to 2,600 feet, the only suitable climate for tubercular patients.

Ellis said the committee of four traveled six days in the mountains of Mariposa, Tuolumne, and Calaveras Counties searching for a spot. On the morning of the seventh day Ellis took them to the present site.

"They were all very well pleased," said Ellis, "including Mrs. Thompson." The 332 acre tract for the sanitarium was purchased from William Sell, the father of the present supervisor, William Sell, Jr., for $20,000. Ellis served as a director for 10 years, helping to build it to its present status.

Ahwahnee Sanitarium is still operated by Madera and Merced Counties, Stanislaus County withdrew several years ago.

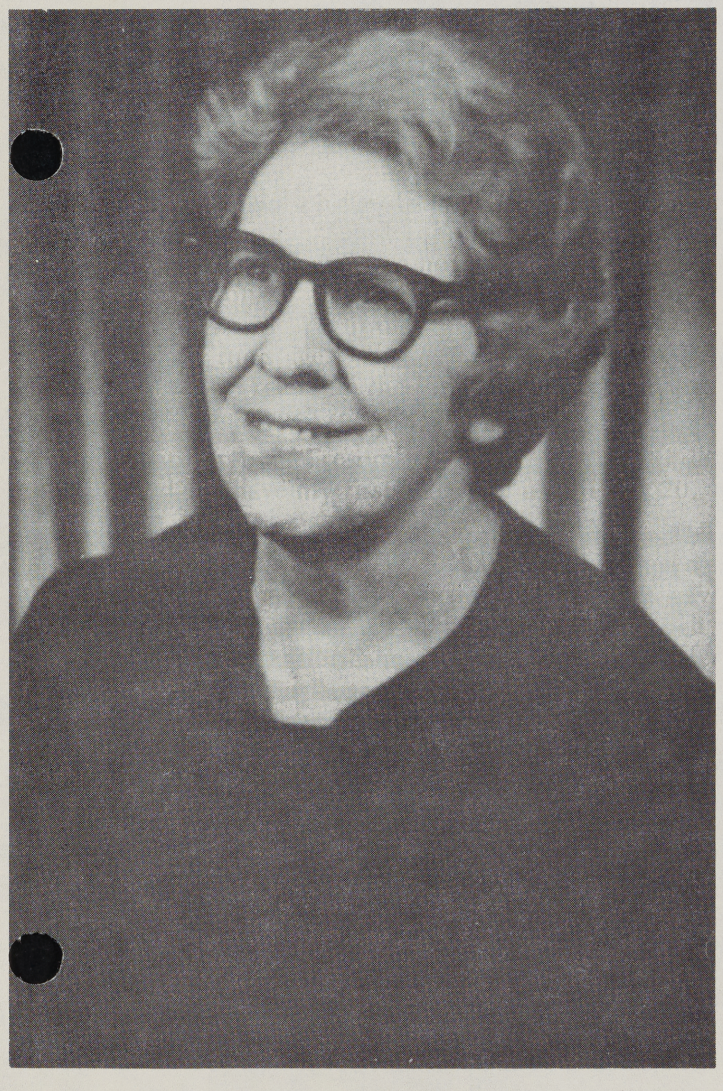
There was one bridge between North Fork and the Valley, the "Jenny Lind," a wooden structure, under what is now the Friant Dam. During his service as supervisor Ellis worked untiringly to get the roads improved and bridges built. He got the backing of the big names of the day, and with the cooperation of Fresno County, the Pollaski bridge which spanned the river at Friant was constructed and completed January 7, 1906. The Pollaski Bridge was considered one of the finest in the U.S. according to a national magazine. (In 1952 a new bridge was constructed just below the site of the one named above.)

That same year, 1906, with the help of his neighbor, Henry Ramsey, "Bill" built the home in which he still lives. The best Sugar Pine went into the house at the price of $25 per thousand! This house was the first in these parts to have a bathroom with a bathtub and other fixings, and these ancient pieces are still in use. The 14 doors, made and hung in 1906, still fit perfectly. Other furnishings include one of the first Frigidaires manufactured, and a desk Bill made 54 years ago. On the wall is a picture of the first automobile, a "Brush," that came to North Fork. The owner, P. Conklin, ran an insurance agency in Fresno- the date, June 16, 1902. It took Conklin four days to make the trip from Fresno, but the car came all the way under its own power.

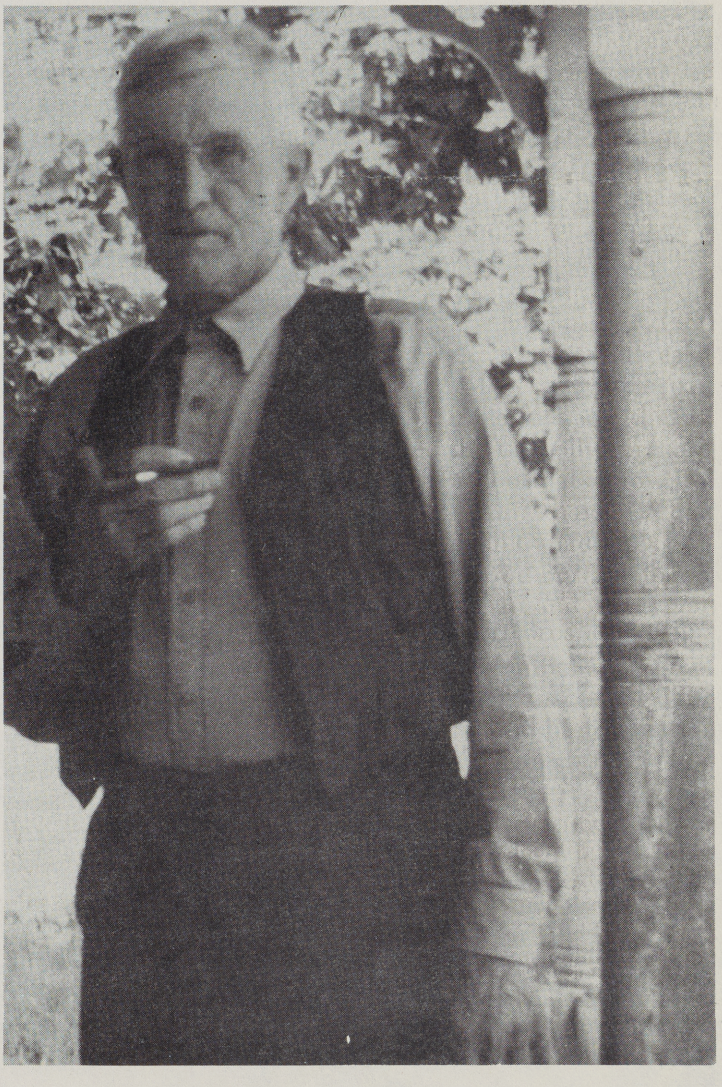
The old home now 62 years old has been remodeled s[illegible].

William Ellis was married in 1905 to Miss Myrtle O'Neal, sister of Spencer O'Neal and the late John O'Neal. They had two sons, one was drowned in 1915 in Bass Lake; the

William A. Ellis, Sr., age 22, 1896. Taken near 101 Ranch at O'Neals



Mrs. Vida Booth Ellis



William A. Ellis, Sr., 1960

other son, William A. lives in North Fork. Mr. Ellis has two grandchildren.

Mr. Ellis was King of the Old Timers' parade in 1964, the late Mrs. Lucille Desmond was Queen. In 1966, Mr. Ellis placed the crown on the King and Queen, Mr. & Mrs. Will Sell, Jr.

In 1949, William Ellis married Vida Booth, the widow of Lorrin Booth. Mrs. Vida Booth Ellis is a widely known artist, has painted and sold many lovely pictures, one entitled "A Portrait of Bill" hangs in their home, plus several others depicting landscapes and buildings near their home. Wherever an art group is gathered you will see Mrs. Ellis. She has started many people in their art careers. During her career, she studied at the University of the Pacific, California School of Fine Arts, also under C.T. Wilson of Eureka and Maynard Dixon---"The Artist of the Desert." Mrs. Ellis is considered outstanding in her field and has received prizes from several county fairs and at the California State Fair. The emblem for the Madera County Historical Society was her design, and in appreciation, Life Memberships were presented to Mr. & Mrs. William A. Ellis, Sr.

When visiting in their home you are impressed by their sincere hospitality and gracious welcome. Mr. Ellis has such a wealth of knowledge related to Madera County, and tells the stories of early days so interestingly, you want to remain for hours.

Drop by some afternoon and visit the Ellises, hear about Madera County, especially North Fork History and if you are lucky you might get a piece of Mrs. Ellises' apple pie. She can cook as well as paint.

William Ellis has written considerable history of North Fork and vicinity. We hope someday to combine it with all of Marcia Putney's collection into a very complete North Fork History.

INFORMATION FOR OUR READERS

Have you received your Historian---the last issue-- containing the story of Fairmead? Be sure to let us know if you do not have a copy. The last Historian will contain short biographies of the men who played a prominent part in the forming of our county in 1893.

* * * * * * * * * * *

What Do You Know About the Cherokee? Recently a letter came to our office asking if we had any knowledge of any Cherokees that had ever settled in Madera County. The letter further requested us, if we had space to put it in our next Historian. If you do have any such knowledge will you write directly to the address following:

Mr. Albert L. Wahrhaftig
58 Wildwood Gardens
Piedmont, California 94611

* * * * * * * * * * * *

Christmas Cards, using oldtime pictures of the Sugar Pine Camp in the snow, and the Old Court House have been prepared by the Madera County Historical Society. These cards are very attractive and unique. You may get complete information concerning the purchase of these cards by writing to the Madera County Historical Society, P.O. Box 478. The proceeds from the sale of these cards will be used to help meet expenses of the Society and to increase our museum fund.

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With this year's celebration of the Diamond Jubilee, much interest has been generated in Madera County History—manifested by a number of new members joining the Historical Society. . . and we are still talking about a museum . . . this will become a reality yet!

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

WHY DON'T YOU WRITE A STORY?

The Board of Directors would like to receive

STORIES

about early MADERA PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

THE MADERA COUNTY HISTORIAN

Contributors	William Ellis, Sr., his brothers, Charles and Walter, and excerpts from the Fresno Bee in 1948, 1952, and 1953.
Managing Editors	Board of Directors of the Madera County Historical Society
Compiled by	Maud Lindemann

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